

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by canceling the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 20:

~~When the image(s) capture a fraction of all of the fibres being tested, it is preferred that an estimate of the fibre fineness be calculated using the formula:~~

Please amend the specification by inserting the following paragraphs beginning on page 9, line 20:

When the images capture only a portion or fraction of the total fibres being tested, it is possible that estimating the fibre fineness according to step c) can be calculated by at least two equivalent approaches.

The first approach involves estimating the mass of fibre appearing in the image(s) and calculating the length of fibre and fibre fineness in each image captured and, in turn, estimating the fibre finess of the overall sample of fibres. In the situation where the fibre is uniformly mixed in a liquid suspension, the total mass of fibre appearing in the image(s) may be expressed as a function of the total mass of fibre in the sample multiplied by a ratio of the volume of the suspension appearing in the image(s) to the total volume of the suspension. The fibre fineness of each image is then determined as a ratio of the mass of fibre in the image(s) to the length of fibre in the image(s) determined by step b).

The second approach involves determining the length of fibre in the image(s), estimating the total length of fibre in the overall sample, and in turn, estimating the fibre fineness of the overall sample. An estimate of the total length of fibre in the image(s) can be determined by multiplying a mean length of the fibre determined in step b) by a ratio representing the total fibre in the sample to the average portion of fibre in the image(s). In the situation where the fibres are uniformly

mixed in a liquid suspension, the ratio may be expressed as a function of the total volume of the suspension to the volume of the suspension captured in the image(s) which is then multiplied by the mean length of fibre in the image(s) captured.

It will be appreciated that both of the approaches described above may be conveniently summarized using the following formula: